

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

**NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
THE FILING OF AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS**
(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 417)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 21 December 2001 (21.12.01)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 01114ETKPCT	
International application No. PCT/JP01/06039	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 July 2001 (12.07.01)
Applicant ESTECH CORPORATION LTD. et al	

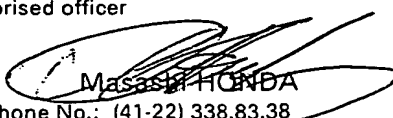
1. The applicant is hereby notified that amendments to the claims under Article 19 were received by the International Bureau on:

04 December 2001 (04.12.01)

2. This date is within the time limit under Rule 46.1.

Consequently, the international publication of the international application will contain the amended claims according to Rule 48.2(f), (h) and (i).

3. The applicant is reminded that the international application (description, claims and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination under Chapter II, according to Article 34, and in any case, before each of the designated Offices, according to Article 28 and Rule 52, or before each of the elected Offices, according to Article 41 and Rule 78.

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorised officer</p> <p> Masashi HONDA</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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Claims

1. A socket for a dialyzer that connects a plug of the dialyzer and a dialysate tube for supplying or discharging a dialysate, characterized in that the socket comprises a socket main body having a coupling part to be fitted onto the plug of the dialyzer and a cylindrical part for connecting the dialysate tube, an outer sleeve fitted onto the coupling part of the socket main body, and a spring-biased holder for pressing a locking ball, the holder being accommodated between the socket main body and the outer sleeve and capable of moving back and forth, and the socket is capable of being attached to or removed from the plug with a single operation by the holder moving back and forth when the socket is to be attached to or removed from the plug.

2. The socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that a front end portion of the holder constitutes a protrusion that externally protrudes from a front end surface of the outer sleeve, and when cleaning the socket, the locking ball can be released by pressing said protrusion of the holder to retract the holder, thereby canceling a constraint state of the locking ball.

3. The socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the protrusion on the front end portion of the holder and the front end surface of the outer sleeve are configured to be visually discriminable.

4. The socket for a dialyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the socket main body has an internal passage that communicates with an accommodation hole for the locking ball and enables a spring or the like to be
5 cleaned.

5. The socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 1 or 4, characterized in that the coupling part of the socket main body has, on an inner wall thereof, an end face seal that abuts against an end of the plug of the dialyzer.

10 6. A method for cleaning a socket for a dialyzer that connects a plug of the dialyzer and a dialysate tube for supplying or discharging a dialysate, characterized in that a coupling part of a socket main body is fitted into a socket accommodation room provided on each of ends of a cylindrical adapter main
15 body, an outer periphery of the coupling part of the socket and the adapter main body are locked using a locking collar fitted onto each of the ends of the adapter main body, and a cleaning solution is circulated through the adapter main body, thereby cleaning the entire inner wall of the socket
20 while the entire inner wall is brought into contact with the cleaning solution.

7. The method for cleaning a socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 6, characterized in that the coupling part of the socket is inserted into the socket accommodation room in the
25 adapter main body, the holder of the socket is retracted to release a locking ball, the adapter main body and the socket are locked, and the cleaning solution is circulated through

the adapter main body, thereby allowing the entire surface of the locking ball to be cleaned.

8. The method for cleaning a socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that in a circulation path for the cleaning solution in the adapter, a fluid pressure of the cleaning solution in the socket accommodation room of the adapter main body is controlled to be high by connecting the socket accommodation rooms on both sides through a plurality of small-diameter passages.

9. A cleaning adapter used for cleaning a socket for a dialyzer that connects a plug of the dialyzer and a dialysate tube for supplying or discharging a dialysate, characterized in that the adapter comprises an adapter main body that has socket accommodation rooms each for accommodating a coupling part of a socket on both sides of a block and a small-diameter passage for connecting the respective accommodation rooms formed in the block to pass therethrough, and locking collars each for locking the socket that are fitted onto the both ends of the adapter main body.

10. The cleaning adapter according to Claim 9, characterized in that a pressing protrusion for pressing a protrusion on the holder is provided on a bottom wall of the socket accommodation room of the adapter main body and allows the locking ball to be released when the socket is to be connected to the adapter main body.